

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Newsletter

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Pastoral Perspective

Folks,

Spring is in full bloom, and so are my allergies! When I walked outside after work one day and wondered who replaced by black truck with a green one, I decided to look up where all of this pollen comes from and what the purpose is. That research took me down memory lane to fourth grade science class where we learned all about how flowers and plants reproduce through pollination. They produce those grains that get picked up by bees, insects, animals, and even the wind, and spread to other plants leading to the production of seeds, fruits, and other plants. It's a pretty cool process, and it really got me thinking. For tons of people, especially parents and grandparents, May is an incredibly busy month filled with celebrations, graduations, playoffs, performance exhibitions, special events, recognitions, and trips. Looking at the calendar can almost feel overwhelming! You'll be going to all sorts of new places and interacting with all sorts of new people. But rather than looking at it as a stressful and busy season of just "go, go, go," what if we looked at this busy season as an opportunity for pollination and spreading the faith? God will bring interactions between you and people you've never met. God will bring you to places you've never been. Maybe, just maybe, part of that purpose isn't just for a family vacation or a crawfish boil for your nephew's graduation party, but an opportunity to spread the faith through your own life and example. The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few, so get to spreading, friends!

Grace and Peace,
Greg Morgan



*Worship
& Learn
with Us*

Sunday School
9:30 A.M.

Sunday Worship
Service:
10:30 A.M.

*Child care is
available during the
classrooms during
Sunday Service*

Easter Sunday

The Hays
Family



The Wright Family



The Irwin
Family



John Crisp &
Jim McFee



The Ledwell Family



The Cain Family



The Williamson Family



The Crabtree Family



The Prieskorn Family



The Bishop Family



Easter Sunday

The Hall Family



The Ward Family



The Casias Family



The McCulloch Family

The White Family



Ken & Nancy King, Paul & Chris Quinn



Lisa Ledwell, JJ Williamson,
Michelle Walraven



The Richards Family



Lisela Grigsby &
Grace Drye



Easter Sunday



The Quinn Family



The King Family



The DeWolfe Family



The Crews Family



The White Family



The Mueller Family



The Marracino Family

Servant's Heart

Denise
Wright



What role do you serve in, and how did you get started?

I serve as coordinator for our ushers and greeters. I began in this volunteer position shortly after we joined with the sweet congregation of Downtown First Methodist. It immediately began a blending of servants hearts. In transition, Pastor Greg provided a framework of how best to include everyone.



What do you enjoy most about volunteering with our church family?

New faces, new friends!! Old members and new members continue to volunteer and work along side those who have served for years.



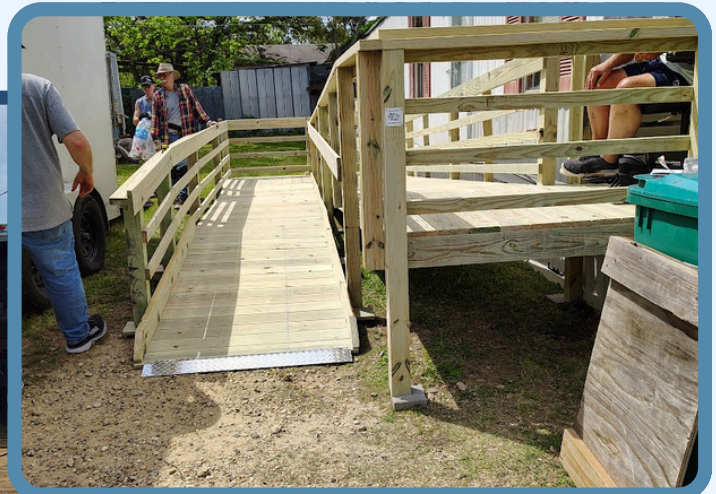
Who has been an inspiration in your journey of serving others?

I am thankful to Gail Eichler for calling me all those months ago to see if I might serve in this capacity and thankful God led me to say YES. As our weekly closing hymn says: "There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord."

Wheelchair Ramp Build



Donnie Camp, Michael White, Richard Page, Craig Benich, Chris Quinn, Mark Mittelman, Jim McGee, Paul Quinn, Chris Spyres, and Bill Ainsley



Leading the Next Generation

Get to know our new
Director of Youth Ministries:

Max Henry



Q

Tell us a little about yourself—what are you studying in college, and what are some of your interests or hobbies?

At Texas A&M University Texarkana, I am currently pursuing a Business Administration degree concentrated in Marketing. I was originally a sports management major and changed because I loved conversing with others about things I'm passionate about. I am also serving as the President Nominee and Community Service Chair for the Rotaract Club at TAMUT. I am a big football fan (Go Hogs!) and an avid golfer. I also love playing guitar and hanging out with my friends.

Q

What led you to step into this role as Director of Youth Ministries, and what excites you most about it?

In the summer of 2025, I had the opportunity to teach music at a local high school and really enjoyed being able to take part in the growth of the kids I was working with. On New Year's Day, I traveled to a ministry conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee entitled NATCON. At this conference, I really learned a lot about myself and how the Lord was using me to help others grow in their faith. When offered this opportunity, I couldn't hesitate to accept, knowing that it was exactly what I've been looking for.

I'm really excited about being able to pour into the youth and watch them grow while I grow in my own spiritual journey.

Leading the Next Generation

Q

How has your own faith journey shaped the way you want to lead and connect with students?

When I was in youth, one of the main reasons I came back every week was because I had a great relationship with the youth director. I would love to be able to do the same for my kiddos! I want to not only be someone they can ask questions and talk to, but someone they see as a friend.

Q

What are some of your hopes or goals for the youth group in this upcoming season?

I hope that our youth group can gain a sense of identity within the community and represent the values of our church.



Q

Just for fun—what's one thing students might be surprised to learn about you?

One fun fact about me is that I played drums all throughout middle school, high school, and even one semester in college.



Class of 2026



Avery Benich

Avery Benich, daughter of Craig and Cathy Benich, is graduating from Pleasant Grove High School. She is a top 10 graduate and earned Elite Academic All-State honors for Cross Country. She served as an officer in Keyettes, National Technical Honor Society, HOSA, FCA, and First Priority. She is also a member of the varsity cross country and track teams. Avery will attend Texas A&M University this fall to pursue a degree in Biomedical Sciences on a pre-med track.

Riley Byrne

Riley Byrne, daughter of Brad and Megan Byrne, is graduating from Pleasant Grove High School. She has a 4.0 GPA and was awarded the Elite Academic Volleyball All-State honor. She was also selected as a HOBY Ambassador. She is involved in various clubs, and is a member of the varsity volleyball and track teams. Riley will attend Louisiana State University to major in Animal Science and pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine.



Brice Ervin



Brice Ervin, grandson of David and Kathy Moore, is graduating with honors from Texas High School as a graduate of the STEM Academy. Brice will also earn an Associate's Degree from Texarkana College on his high school graduation day. Brice was a four-year member of the THS Golf Team. Brice will attend the University of Arkansas to major in Industrial Engineering. He has received the UA University Scholarship, the Arkansas Governor's Scholarship, and the Arkansas Challenge Scholarship.

Class of 2026

Gavin Escamilla

Gavin Escamilla, son of Ray and Stephanie Escamilla, is graduating from Pleasant Grove High School. He is an Eagle Scout, a graduate of the TYTL leadership program, a member of the National Honor Society, and ranks in the top 25% of his class. Gavin has completed four years of Spanish and is a four-year member of the PG Varsity Golf Team. He is also earning his associate's degree from Texarkana College. Gavin will attend the University of Arkansas this fall to pursue a degree in Accounting.



Hayden Henry

Hayden Henry, daughter of Melinda and Eric Henry, is graduating from Texas High School. She graduated in the top 10 of her graduating class. She is the Editor in Chief of the THS Yearbook, the Community Events Chair for student council, a member of both the Mu Alpha Theta and National Honor societies, and a four-year member of the varsity tennis team. She will attend the University of Texas at Austin this fall in pursuit of a degree in communications and Leadership



Lizzie Sharp

Elizabeth Sharp, daughter of Corey and Jessica Sharp, is graduating from Texas High School. Elizabeth is a member of the Texarkana Youth Symphony Orchestra serving as the Concert Master for the 2025-26 concert season, is a member of Science club, Art Club, National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society, Tri - M Music Scholars Honor Society, and ran varsity cross country and track. She will attend Texas State University in the fall and intends to major in Studio Art and Art Education.



Member Spotlight

Q

Tell us a little about your family—who's who, and what are some of your favorite things to do together?

We have 2 children, Chris is 48 and just got married on Feb. 5th. to Jenny Martindale. Allison is 44 and she is married to Johnathan Holliman. They will celebrate their 20th anniversary on April 29th. We have 3 grandchildren, Morgan 18, who is a Freshman at SAU, Mason 9, and Madelyn 8. We love taking trips with the grands and showing them some history while having fun. We also like to go to estate sales on Fridays, that is our time.



MEET THE ROBERTS!

Q

How long have you guys been married, and how did you meet?



We met at the College Bowl, that was a popular hang out back in the day. We were married at Williams Memorial Church when it was located on Reading Avenue, and we have been married 48 years. We have spent many anniversaries in Memphis visiting Graceland because Elvis passed a week before we got married and we are both big Elvis fans.

Member Spotlight

Q

What are some of your favorite ways to get involved at our church?

We love working at Mary's Closet. When we joined First Methodist Church, and I saw the sign on the side of the building, I knew I had found the right place to be. Kip started coming with me and now he drives the van to do pick ups and get the donations from the Summerhill location. We also participate with the Fall Festival and the Easter egg hunt. Kip serves on the Missions Committee.



Q

Do you have a favorite bible verse to share?

My (Janis) favorite verse is Psalm 46:10 "Be still and know that I am God". I know that whatever I'm facing, I just need to stop, take a breath and know that God is in control. Kip's favorite verse is John 3:16. That says it all, that God gave his son for us, that we may have eternal life.

Q

If we had a church potluck, what dish are you guys bringing, and who's cooking?

For a potluck, I (Janis) would do the cooking and I would probably bring banana pudding and corn casserole.



Celebrations



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Jackie Rehkopf | 13 Megan Byrne |
| 2 Terry Dickeson | 16 Brad Carlow |
| Chris Quinn | Eric Cain |
| Kathy Moore | 18 Brynleigh Marracino |
| 5 Randy Sarrett | 19 Steve Ledwell |
| Linda Stanley | 22 Torin Marracino |
| Riley Byrne | Mills Griffin |
| 6 Greg Morgan | 24 Kelly Mitchell |
| 9 Bruce Hornbuckle | 27 Grady Mueller |
| 11 Ashley Carlow | 29 William Wright |
| 12 Melissa Steed | |
| Eric Casias | |





Children's Ministry

SUMMER

INFORMATION



Our very last day
of Kids Camp will be
May 13th.



We will have Family Fun Nights
this summer on these dates:



- June 10th
- June 24th
- July 8th
- July 22nd

More details to come!

Kids Camp will
resume for the
fall semester on
August 19th.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT

YOUTH

End of Year Party

MAY 13TH

5:00–7:00 p.m.

**COMING
SOON**

music * dance * crafts * bells

FMC
FINE ARTS
CAMP

Camp July 13 -17 * Showcase July 19



A vibrant poster for the First Family Fun Fest. The background features a pink and white diagonal striped pattern. In the top left, there is a large yellow sun with rays. Below it, a pair of pink sunglasses is shown. In the bottom left, a wooden sign reads "Hello Summer!". In the center, a red-bordered box contains the text "FIRST FAMILY Fun Fest". Below this box, the date and time "Sunday, May 17th 4:30 pm" are written in green. At the bottom, it says "FUN & GAMES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY" and "FOOD BY TEXAS ROADHOUSE". On the right side, there is a red arrow pointing right with the word "FUN!" inside, and a slice of watermelon with a green rind and red flesh.

**FIRST
FAMILY
Fun Fest**

**Sunday, May 17th
4:30 pm**

FUN!

Hello Summer!

**FUN & GAMES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
FOOD BY TEXAS ROADHOUSE**

Upcoming Events

New Member **LUNCHEON**

May 3rd
11:45 AM



Youth **PRAISE NIGHT**

May 3rd
6:00 p.m.



Senior **SUNDAY**

May 10th
10:30 a.m. Service



First Family **FUN DAY**

May 17th
4:30-6:30 p.m.

